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## **Lisbon Woman Celebrates as Her Mortgage Burns!**



**Lisbon, CT** –As her grandchildren, daughter, brother, federal and local officials looked on today, Ms. Regina DeMay a resident of Lisbon for over thirty years took a flame to her mortgage on the steps of Lisbon's Town Hall. The fire set by Ms. DeMay was in celebration of the end of thirty-three years of mortgage payments on her beautiful three bedroom home which was purchased with the assistance of a USDA Rural Development home loan and many years of hard work by Ms. DeMay.

Ms. DeMay received a loan for the purchase of her home from USDA Rural Development (known then as the Farmer's Home Administration) back in April, 1972. At the time, Ms. DeMay, a native of Norwich, CT, was a single mother of two young children working as a telephone operator for the Southern New England Telephone Company. Today, Ms. DeMay's children are grown and she is the proud grandmother of five who enjoys spending time with her children and their families in the home she worked so hard to finance. "I wouldn't have been able to buy my home without the USDA," said Ms. DeMay.

The celebration was attended by a representative from Congressman Rob Simmons office and included the presentation of a congratulatory letter to Ms. DeMay from the Congressman.

State Director David Tuttle and First Selectman Thomas Sparkman also announced today their plans to hold USDA Rural Development office hours at the Lisbon Town Hall. Beginning soon, USDA Rural Development will offer interested individuals and families a chance to speak to USDA Rural Development Loan Specialists about their eligibility for USDA Housing Programs, like the one used to buy Ms. DeMay's home, and to complete a housing application if they wish.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for all rural Americans. USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. In Fiscal Year 2004, USDA Rural Development provided over \$34.9 million in assistance to Connecticut's rural communities and families.

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